



December 2018



### Chelsea

603 S. Main Street  
Chelsea, MI 48118  
734-475-3305  
M, T, Th, F: 9am-4pm  
W: 9am-7pm

### Dexter

7275 Joy Road  
Dexter, MI 48130  
734-426-7002  
Wednesdays: 12-7pm

*Mission: Providing essential supports to alleviate the effects of hunger and poverty for those in the Dexter and Chelsea communities.*

## The Community Supports FIA

Faith In Action is blessed, grateful and humbled to have generous partners who join us in our mission: to provide essential goods and services that alleviate the effects of hunger and poverty in the Dexter and Chelsea communities.

At FIA, we have an emergency food pantry, free clothing, financial help with utilities and lodging, counseling, assistance with health insurance and benefits applications and help in nearly any crisis.

It all takes resources, and Faith In Action is blessed with

partners who have the vision and heart to contribute to this cause. Space only allows us to mention a few, but those mentioned here represent the

hard work and goodwill of those who support us every day.

From FIA to all our supporters, we wish you holidays that are as happy as you have made them for others.



### Scouting for Food and Stuff the Bus — Youth Learning to Give!

We have strong involvement from our young people in the work of Faith In Action. This is a testament to the character of our youth and the parents and guardians who raise them. Here

are two inspiring examples:

The Chelsea Cub, Boy and Girl Scouts orchestrate **Scouting for Food**, which takes place at Polly's Country Market. The Scouts give shoppers a list of needed items and deliver the purchased food to FIA.

The Dexter Leos, a youth club affiliated with the Dexter Lions, conducts a **Stuff the Bus** event annually that provides much of the food we need for the holidays and into the winter.

### Dexter Rotary, St. Joseph Giving Garden and Chelsea Knights — Huge Supporters!

Fresh vegetables and fruits are key to a healthy diet, and **Dexter Rotary** and **St. Joseph Parish** in Dexter are partners in making sure we have enough. The Rotary Club brings produce from their plot at the Community Garden in the summer and from local grocers in the off-season.

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To learn more about FIA, see our website: [www.faithinaction1.org](http://www.faithinaction1.org) or visit us on Facebook at Chelsea/Dexter Faith In Action.

## From the Board President



Lori Minnick, President  
Faith In Action

Partnering with Avalon Housing to create 17 new units of affordable housing has been the highlight of our year at FIA. This achievement is a shining example of what I have learned in my years of service on the board: Faith In Action is a tremendous force for good in the Chelsea and Dexter communities. I am continually impressed by the outstanding level of professionalism of the staff and the quality of the service they give the community, serving as

a lifeline between people who need help and the people willing to help. Every month when staff share success stories with the board, I am touched by the struggle that people experience and the comprehensive help they receive from Faith In Action. Please give generously this year. ■

*Lori A. Minnick*

Lori Minnick,  
Board President

## FIA Partners with Avalon Housing

June 14, 2018, began a new era in Faith In Action history. In partnership with **Avalon Housing**, we opened a new apartment building with 17 units of affordable housing on Main Street in Chelsea. Avalon is the premier development group for this kind of housing, which seeks to house a population ranging from middle income to the chronically homeless. FIA provides critical support that enables tenants to be successful, while paying 30 percent of income for rent. This was accomplished with the support of **St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, Chelsea First United Methodist Church, St. Mary Catholic Church, St. Paul United Church of Christ, City of Chelsea leaders** and **Chelsea Milling**.

The lack of affordable housing in Chelsea and Dexter poses challenges for those of low and middle income. With the Main Street project up and running in Chelsea, Faith In Action is now actively seeking opportunities in Dexter to work



with Avalon to develop and support even more units. There is strong support from both the City of Dexter and the local faith community to help make this a reality. Many thanks to our community partners, whose vision will help bring more affordable housing to our communities. ■

## Humanitarian of the Year, Bob Pierce

Faith In Action presented the 2018 Howard S. Holmes Humanitarian of the Year Award to Bob Pierce. As owner of Pierce's Pastries, he and his wife, Nadine, provided accommodation and opportunities for differently abled individuals, both customers and employees. His dedication as a member of the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce was transformative for the Chelsea community. He sought to make significant improvement in community life by inviting nonprofits, churches and organizations to join the Chamber. Bob and Nadine leave the legacy of the "Saturday Morning Challengers," a social and sport activity for differently abled bowlers ■



Bob, Nadine, and son Mike at the 2018 Faith In Action Benefit Banquet.

**Thank you, Bob and Nadine,  
for all you've done.**

### Community Support ...Continued from cover

**St. Joseph Parish** has a large congregational garden that produces hundreds of pounds of vegetables annually. Both groups generously support FIA financially and through Christmas, Backpack and other programs.



**The Chelsea Knights of Columbus** have donated hundreds of new winter coats for kids to keep warm and dry in Michigan's cold winters. They also provide a generous donation toward gift certificates for food.

**The Material Girls** gather monthly to create unique items by reusing and repurposing materials. Their finished products are then sold at very low cost at a bazaar, where children can purchase the items as Christmas gifts. Along with a scholarship program for low-income children and special shopping for special needs kids, they aim to generate funds that are turned over to Faith In Action in service to local families. Last year the Material Girls donated \$10,000, all while creating community and having fun! ■

## Do you need help? Your friend? A family member?

To qualify for services at Faith In Action, your income must fall below these thresholds, which are the same as qualifications for free or reduced lunch at all area schools. Feel free to reach out to FIA staff for any advice or help.

Persons in family /household	Max Monthly Income
1	\$2,023
2	\$2,743
3	\$3,463
4	\$4,183
5	\$4,903
6	\$5,623
7	\$6,343
8	\$7,063

**Visit [www.faithinaction1.org](http://www.faithinaction1.org)  
to find out more!**



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Dexter, MI 48130

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## How Do I Help?

### Please consider a gift to Faith In Action

Using your own envelope or making an online donation saves FIA time and money: resources we'd love to use for FIA programs. If mailing, send to: **FIA, 603 S. Main St., Chelsea, MI 48118**



**Yes! I want to help!**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip

**We/I would like to support Faith In Action with a tax-deductible gift of:**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Pay online with PayPal at [www.Faithinaction1.org](http://www.Faithinaction1.org)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed a check **payable to Faith In Action**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my credit card:  Visa  MasterCard

\_\_\_\_\_  
Account Number Expiration Date Security Code

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Signature

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